DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 415 129 SO 027 404

AUTHOR	Glen, John M.
TITLE	Highlander: No Ordinary School. Second Edition.
ISBN	ISBN-0-87049-928-9
PUB DATE	1996-00-00
NOTE	413p.
AVAILABLE FROM	University of Tennessee Press, Chicago Distribution Center, 11030 S. Langley, Chicago, IL 60628; phone: 800-621-2736.
PUB TYPE	Books (010)
EDRS PRICE	Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	*Activism; *Adult Education; Citizen Participation; *Educational History; *Intercultural Programs; *International Programs; Social Action; Social Attitudes; *Working Class
IDENTIFIERS	Appalachia; *Highlander Folk School TN; United States (South)

ABSTRACT

This book updates the 1988 examination of Highlander, one of the South's most extraordinary and controversial institutions. Newly available materials and the latest scholarship details the school's most recent work in Appalachia, its efforts to bring international grassroots groups together on common issues, and its support of emerging economic and environmental justice campaigns. Highlander Folk School was first established in 1932 as an adult education center to serve southern and Appalachian activists and was a catalyst for several major movements for social change. The comprehensive history offers a unique perspective on the movements, institutions, organizations, and individuals that reshaped our understanding of the South and Appalachia in the twentieth century. The book also suggests the range of problems and possibilities of using education to achieve economic, political, and racial justice. Chapter titles include: (1) "The Establishment of Highlander, 1927-1932"; (2) "Early Struggles, 1932-1937"; (3) "Building and Defending a Program, 1937-1941"; (4) "Extension Work, 1937-1947"; (5) "The CIO Years, 1942-1947"; (6) "Transition Years, 1944-1953"; (7) "From School Desegregation to Student Sit-Ins, 1953-1961"; (8) "The Citizenship Schools, 1953-1961"; (9) "Highlander under Attack, 1953-1962"; and (10) "Highlander Center: New Directions, New Struggles." Appendices offer Highlander's 1950 Statement of Purpose and the 1987 Mission Statement. Notes and a bibliographic essay conclude the volume. (EH)

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